

SOME KANSAS BIRD RECORDS

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DESPITE the extensive ornithological collections that have been made in the vicinity of Lawrence, Douglas County, Kansas, kinds of birds unusual for the county, as well as for the State, continue to be found in the county from time to time. The following records of birds are mainly from a collection of mounted birds kindly lent by Ralph L. Montell, of Lawrence, Kansas, whose intelligent curiosity led him to save unusual specimens of wildfowl. We are grateful also to George H. Lowery, Jr., who checked the identification of the specimens suspected of being Mottled Ducks.

Colymbus auritus. Horned Grebe. The only occurrences of the Horned Grebe previously ascribed to Kansas are: one specimen "taken at Manhattan on September 30, 1878," and a specimen "in winter plumage in the Matthews collection at Wichita University . . . probably taken near Wichita, but . . . no data attached" (Long, 1935, MS).

According to the A.O.U. Check-list (1931:4), the interior winter records are "mainly from the region of the Great Lakes." A male, No. 54, Montell collection, was obtained 2.5 miles north of Lawrence, Douglas County, Kansas, on the mill pond of the Kansas River, on 16 November 1945, by Montell. This is the second Horned Grebe definitely known to have been taken in Kansas, and the first from Douglas County.

Aechmophorus occidentalis. Western Grebe. There are only three previously known occurrences of the Western Grebe in Kansas, the latest a bird (K.U. [University of Kansas Museum of Natural History] No. 6854) taken on 8 November 1901, "in Shawnee County," Kansas. Long (1935, MS) states that another mounted bird in the collections of the University of Kansas (No. 8653) was apparently taken in Douglas County. A second record from Douglas County (the fourth from the State) is provided by a male, No. 89, shot 2 miles north of Lawrence on the Kansas River, Douglas County, on 11 November 1947.

Anas fulvigula maculosa. Mottled Duck. In 1886, Goss (1886:6) recorded a female specimen of *Anas fulvigula* taken by him at Neosho Falls, Woodson County, Kansas, on 11 March 1876. He tells also of seeing three other ducks of this species, one of which he shot but apparently did not save. This identification was later amended by Goss (1891:58) to *Anas fulvigula maculosa*. The first edition of the A.O.U. Check-list (1886:115) and all subsequent editions, cited the

species as of casual occurrence in Kansas. Long (1940:437) stated that there were four specimens known from the State. These, apparently, were the following: K.U. No. 3503, ♀, taken in Douglas County on 6 October 1894, by an unknown collector; K.U. No. 4503, ♀, taken 31 March 1895, and without further data; Kansas State Teacher's College, uncatalogued, ♀, taken at Emporia on 12 March 1890, by A. L. Bennett; and finally the specimen, taken by Goss, referred to above and now in the Museum of the Kansas State Historical Society in Topeka. Re-examination of these specimens reveals that the two in the University of Kansas Museum of Natural History are typical examples of the Mallard, *Anas p. platyrhynchos*, and that the specimen at Emporia is a Gadwall, *Anas strepera*. The specimen taken by Goss was correctly identified. Because of the difficulties in identification of subspecies of this group in the field, the only acceptable record of occurrence of the Mottled Duck in Kansas is provided by Goss' specimen, and the subspecies must be regarded as an accidental straggler to the State.

Clangula hyemalis. Old-squaw. There are four previous records for this duck in Kansas, none of them from Douglas County (Long, 1935, MS). Two specimens, Nos. 40, ♂, and 54, ♀, Montell collection, were taken by Montell in Douglas County: No. 40 on Oxbow Lake, 3 miles northeast of Lawrence, on 7 December 1944, and No. 54 at a point 2.5 miles north of Lawrence, on the Kansas River, on 10 November 1945. These constitute the first records for Douglas County, and the fifth and sixth for Kansas. The A.O.U. Check-list (1931:54) does not mention the occurrence of this species in Kansas.

Somateria spectabilis. King Eider. This species, previously unrecorded from Kansas, can now be added to the list of Kansas birds as an accidental straggler on the basis of specimen No. 88, ♂, taken by Ralph L. Montell a mile east of Lawrence on the Kansas River on 24 November 1946. Bent (1925:119) states that a bird of this species has been taken at Keokuk, Iowa, in winter. Other casual occurrences are recorded from the Great Lakes. The identification of this specimen was kindly confirmed by Dr. Herbert Friedmann of the United States National Museum.

Gallinula chloropus cachinnans. Florida Gallinule. This bird, recorded by Long (1940:441), on the basis of one nest found in Coffey County, as resident in Kansas, has been discovered breeding in Douglas County. R. L. Montell found a nest of this bird and obtained the female (No. 80 in his collection) at Oxbow Lake, 3 miles northeast of Lawrence, on 22 May 1946. Two chicks from the nest were hatched artificially but were not preserved.

Caprimulgus carolinensis. Chuck-will's-widow. This bird is recorded as common in southeastern Kansas by Long (1940:445). Long (1935, MS) lists several birds seen and one specimen taken as far north as Douglas County. The A.O.U. Check-list (1931:173) lists the bird only from the southern part of Kansas. A male was taken by Arvey on 1 July 1948, one mile south of Clinton, Douglas County (K.U. No. 25026). One other bird was seen in the same locality, and several were heard. The bird had enlarged testes, and it would appear, from this and the number of birds present, that a breeding population existed here. This is the second specimen from Douglas County, the first having been taken by Long "7½ miles southwest of Lawrence on May 4, 1935."

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